

The Security of Web Services as Software

Karen Mercedes Goertzel. To help creators of Web services and Service-Oriented Architectures (SOAs) understand and address the security challenges that confront them, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is getting ready to publish a new Special Publication (SP) 800-95, Guide to Secure Web Services. This SP describes Web service security standards and explains how to develop Web services and SOA portals using technologies based on those standards. However, neither SP 800-95 nor the standards it describes address a critical challenge: the security of Web services as software. Without considering software security, developers cannot create Web services that are truly trustworthy. This article describes both the content of SP 800-95 and highlights its critical omissions in terms of measures needed to produce Web service software that is in and of itself secure.

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1. <https://buildsecurityin.us-cert.gov/adm-bsi/1185-BSI.html>